

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A computer-based on-line skills/résumé management system, said system comprising:  
a relational database having a plurality of fields wherein a portion of said fields  
are arranged in a hierarchical relationship;
- 5 database population means for populating said database with information, said  
population means interfacing with a first user and prompting said first  
user for information for at least a portion of said fields arranged in said  
hierarchical relationship;
- 10 query generation means for interfacing with a second user and prompting said  
second user to select a combination of said fields in said hierarchical  
relationship to form at least a portion of a query for searching said  
database;
- 15 search means operatively connected to database for applying said query to said  
relational database; and
- output means for providing said second user with results of said search.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said database population means prompts said first user  
to respond to a choice of professions, prompts said first user with a choice of subcategories  
based upon said profession, and then prompts said first user to attribute a time duration for a  
20 particular choice of profession subcategories.
- 25 3. The system of claim 1, wherein said query generation means prompts said second user  
to select a choice of professions, prompts said second user to select a choice of subcategories  
based upon said profession, and then prompts said second user to specify a time requirement  
for a particular selection of profession subcategories.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein said search means uses a select command based on said fields to select a candidate according to said query.
5. A computer based central skill/résumé management system, said system comprising:
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- a central processing unit (CPU) containing a database server;
- a database operatively connected to said CPU, said database having a plurality of fields, a portion of said fields being arranged in a hierarchy and/or network relationship;
- a user interface operatively connected to said CPU, said user interface interfacing said system with a user over a telecommunicative link;
- 10 memory operatively connected to said CPU, said memory containing instructional means for configuring said system to perform the following:
- 15 populating said database with information by interfacing with a first user and prompting said first user for information for at least a portion of said fields arranged in said hierarchical relationship;
- 20 formulating a query by interfacing with a second user and prompting said second user to select a combination of said fields in said hierarchical relationship to form at least a portion of a query for searching said database;
- searching said database using said query; and
- outputting results of said search.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein in populating said database, the system prompts said first user to respond to a choice of professions, prompts said first user with a choice of subcategories based upon said profession, and then prompts said first user to attribute a time duration for a particular choice of profession subcategories.

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7. The system of claim 6, wherein in formulating a query, said system selects a choice of professions, prompts said second user to select a choice of subcategories based upon said profession, and then prompts said second user to specify a time requirement for a particular selection of profession subcategories.

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8. The system of claim 5, wherein said search means uses a select command based on said fields to select a user according to said query.

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9. The system of claim 5, wherein said instructional means configure the system to display comparative displays of candidates.

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10. A method of managing skills and résumés using an on-line skill/résumé management system, said system comprising a central processing unit (CPU) containing a database server, a relational database operatively connected to said CPU, said relational database having a plurality of fields, a portion of said field being arranged in a hierarchy, and a user interface operatively connected to said CPU, said user interface interfacing said system with a user over a telecommunicative link, said method comprising the steps of:

configuring a search query by using said user interface to prompt a user to select a combination of said fields in said hierarchy relationship to form at least a

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portion of a search query;  
searching said database using said query;  
displaying results graphically and/or in a tabular fashion in specialized ways; and  
outputting results of said search.

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11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:  
populating said database with information by using a user interface to prompt another user for information for at least a portion of said fields arranged in said hierarchy.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein populating said database comprises:  
prompting said first user to respond to a choice of professions;  
prompting said first user with a choice of subcategories based upon the respective parent categories within said profession; and  
prompting said user to attribute a time duration for a particular choice of profession subcategories.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein formulating a query comprises:  
prompting said user to select a choice of professions;  
prompting said user to select a choice of subcategories based upon their parent categories within said profession; and  
prompting said user to specify a time requirement for a particular selection of profession subcategories.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said relational database further includes a field of education and other fields.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein said process further comprises:

5 modifying said query after outputting said results.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein said process further comprises:

sorting said results according to said fields.

10 17. The method of claim 10, wherein said process further comprises:

scheduling an interview with a candidate.

15 18. The method of claim 10, wherein said process further comprises:

receiving an indication of availability via a telecommunicative link from a candidate.

19. The method of claim 10, wherein populating said database includes entering educational information and job preferences.

20. The method of claim 10, wherein populating said database includes agreeing to charges  
20 for said on-line résumé service.